



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID W. KINER
59TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4006
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 860-265-3366
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
E-MAIL: David.Kiner@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

July 21, 2011

Commissioner Leo Arnone
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Rd
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Commissioner Arnone:

I write to you with great urgency as I have just learned that prisons in and around my district have had their armed perimeter patrol officers reduced from several to one. A number of correction officers have expressed their concern to me over this decision and I share their apprehension. Please clarify for me if this is accurate.

If so, I find it unacceptable to jeopardize the safety of nearby residents and the corrections officers working inside the walls. Nothing short of restoring the full strength of the perimeter patrol force in these correctional institutions immediately would be acceptable.

The prisons I am referring to are: Enfield Correctional Institution; Osborn Correctional Institution; Northern Correctional Institution; and Carl Robinson Correctional Institution.

As you are aware, these prisons have had six or seven officers patrolling the perimeter to prevent prisoner escapes, as well as outsiders throwing drugs or weapons over the prison fences. With only one officer now patrolling the perimeter, I am told that a full-circle-patrol takes 40 minutes. I am fearful this dramatically decreases the safety of the public - putting correction officers and the community unnecessarily in harm's way.

Please contact me immediately to clarify the decision to reduce patrols and to find a way to remedy this situation. Though I am aware there have been budget cuts, I am positive we can find other ways for the Department of Corrections to save the needed money without sacrificing the safety of my district or the correction officers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. Kiner', written over a horizontal line.

David W. Kiner
State Representative, 59th
(860)240-8466